



Date of Council Work Session: October 22, 2012

**TOWN OF LEESBURG
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

Subject: Proposed Telecommunications Site at Olde Izaak Walton Park

Staff Contact: Rich Williams, Director of Parks and Recreation

Recommendation: Staff and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommend that Council consider pursuing a telecommunications site within Izaak Walton Park.

Issue: Should the Town initiate a request for proposal from interested parties to install a telecommunications site within Izaak Walton Park.

Fiscal Analysis: Currently the Town has contracts in place for the attachment of cellular antennas onto existing water towers. These antennas generate \$2,500 - \$6,000 each on a monthly basis for the Town. In accordance with the Virginia Procurement Act, bids would need to be publically solicited, and a contract awarded to the high bidder meeting the terms outlined within the request for proposal.

Background: Staff was approached by a telecommunications provider regarding the placement of a cellular communications site within Izaak Walton Park. The proposal calls for the installation of an antenna to an existing Dominion Virginia power pole, and the installation of a 17' X 40' fenced cell site within the existing utility easement. The cell site would be accessed for general maintenance via a 12' wide gravel road to be located within the current utility easement.

The property is zoned B-3 and will require the selected bidder to acquire a Special Exception through a legislative process for such use. In addition to securing a Special Exception for the property use, the selected bidder will need to secure a separate contractual agreement with Dominion Virginia Power in order to utilize one of the two existing power poles.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission held an open discussion on the idea at their September 8, 2012 meeting. The Commission endorsed, "The concept of pursuing a telecommunications compound at Olde Izaak Walton Park, as long as the integrity and character of the park is maintained," with a 4-0-3 vote. (Chairman Fulcer abstained due to his employment within the telecommunications industry.)

Should Council agree to further pursue this opportunity, staff will develop a request for proposal taking into account the need to preserve the existing character of the park, and the unique challenges of Izaak Walton Park being a leased site.